A

COLLECTION

OF

The SEVERAL PAPERS

Publiſhed by

Mr. *THOMAS CARTE*,

In relation to his K.

HISTORY of ENGLAND;

CONTAINING,

I. His PROPOSALS for removing the Impediments of writing ſuch an *Hiſtory*.

II. His GENERAL ACCOUNT as well of the neceſſary Materials, as of the SOCIETY and SUBSCRIPTION propoſed for defraying the Expences of it, and the Method wherein he intends to proceed in carrying it on; and

III. A REPRESENTATION of what he hath done in the Execution of his Plan ſince the time it was firſt propoſed.

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MDCCXLIV.

[Price Six Pence.]

1.

PROPOSAL

For removing the Impediments of writing

An HISTORY of ENGLAND.

NO Country in *Europe* affords ſuch a quantity and variety of materials for its Hiſtory, as *England* does; and yet none is ſo deſtitute of a good one: a defect eaſy to be perceived, and much to be lamented. Such of our Writers, as have aſſumed the venerable name of Hiſtorians, have generally, to provide themſelves with materials, had recourſe to ſome old Chronicles, preſerving ſhort and indigeſted memorials of public facts and tranſactions in this Kingdom; and have thence derived thoſe accounts of affairs, which being dreſſed up in their own manner and language, make the ſubſtance of their ſeveral Hiſtories, containing little more than the military exploits of our Anceſtors. Materials of this kind were eaſily procured, being borrowed from former Annaliſts without either labour or expence; and, when by being put into a modern ſtyle, they became more agreeable than they were in their uncouth originals, ſerved well enough to anſwer the views of thoſe Writers.

THE *Civil Hiſtory* of this Nation hath not been ſo much as attempted by any man, except by Dr. *Brady*, formerly Keeper of the Records in the Tower. But as his Work is a dry performance, and the Records which he has added to verify it, make near half of the Volumes whereof it is compoſed, few perſons find an entertainment in the reading of his Hiſtory. The Work too by his death was left imperfect; ſo that an Hiſtory of our Conſtitution, Laws, Uſages, Cuſtoms and Manners, with

the various, ſudden, or gradual alterations which theſe have undergone in the courſe of time, and the effects thereof on the Nation, is ſtill wanting; though infinitely more intereſting and uſeful than any relations of battles, ſieges, and military actions, which, excepting a difference as to perſons and places and ſome variety of circumſtances, are much the ſame from the beginning to the end of the world. To finiſh ſuch a *Civil Hiſtory* as the importance of the ſubject deſerves, requires a vaſt expence as well as labour; it cannot be done without painful ſearches into Antiquity, and a large correſpondence with learned men who have made it their ſtudy, nor without travelling through an infinite number of old Records, not eaſy to be read, nor always to be underſtood and applied to their proper uſes, without a conſtant attention and careful obſervation.

THE *Cotton Library* containeth a prodigious number of Memoirs for this purpoſe; and it is eaſy enough to be conſulted. But whether the great pains requiſite to peruſe, examine, and digeſt them, in order to form a judgment upon the whole; or the want of a proper knowledge in matters of Antiquity, and conſequently of a taſt neceſſary to engage people to examine into them; or in fine the defect of ability to defray the expence of living in *London* and maintaining a correſpondence with learned men, have deterred Writers from ſearching as they ought into that great treaſure of *Engliſh* Antiquities: it is certain that no proper uſe hath yet been made of the valuable Pieces there repoſed, for the clearing up of many material paſſages in our Hiſtory. The like reaſons have probably hindered them from making the like ſearches into our Records; tho' a ſmall number of the inſtruments there preſerved would in many caſes give a much better light into ſome of the moſt remarkable tranſactions in ſeveral reigns, than all the Hiſtories of *England* hitherto publiſhed.

RAPIN,

RAPIN, later in time than our other Writers, enjoyed by that means one advantage which all his predeceſſors wanted; but withal he laboured under greater diſadvantages than any of them, with regard to a Civil Hiſtory of this Nation; as being a Foreigner and utterly unacquainted with our Conſtitution, Laws, and Cuſtoms, any farther than he could learn in converſation, or pick up in Coffee-houſes, the common habitation of his Countrymen in this City; ſo that his reaſonings or reflections upon the paſſages of former times are too often founded upon the modern notions which he had thus imbibed. Writing his Hiſtory abroad, he wanted an opportunity, (if the ſelf ſufficiency, to which ſome natures are ſubject, had not ſtifled in him the inclination) of conſulting perſons better verſed than himſelf in Antiquity, whoſe knowledge might have ſupplied his defects, and whoſe informations might have helped to form or correct his judgment. The only advantage he had over others was, that he wrote after *Rymer's Fœdera* was publiſhed: and this circumſtance, more than any other, contributed to recommend his Hiſtory. But as a great number of technical words, relative to our particular Uſages, are every where to be found in the Inſtruments publiſhed in that Collection, he, through the want of a ſufficient Knowledge of thoſe Uſages, did not always underſtand their true meanning. The part which he made moſt uſe of in that work was, the publick Treaties with foreign Princes; but of theſe *Rymer* himſelf hath given us only an imperfect Collection; his Work containing no Treaties, but ſuch as were inrolled in Chancery, and are preſerved in the Tower of *London*, or in the Office of the *Rolls*.

WHILST I was in *France*, I was curious in ſearching for every thing that concerned my own Country; and have taken Notes or made Abſtracts of

near a thouſand Inſtruments of Treaties and Tranſactions between the Crowns of *England* and *France*, which do not appear in *Rymer*, and yet are preſerved in the King of *France's Treſor des Chartres*, and in the Regiſters of the *Chambre des Comptes* and of the *Parlement* of *Paris*. There lie concealed at this time in our own Archives ſome hundreds of the like public Treaties with foreign Princes and States, which would afford great light to our Hiſtory.

I never obſerved in *Rapin* any quotation out of the Journals of our Privy Council, unleſs at ſecond hand from Dr. *Burnet*'s Hiſtory of the Reformation; though a conſcientious Hiſtorian would never take up any thing on truſt, where he might examine the Original, and a careful one would never have omitted to conſult the Books of that Council, wherein the moſt important affairs, that paſs as well within as without the Nation, are debated and tranſacted.

It doth not appear from his Work, that he ever read, either the Rolls of Parliament, or the Journals of either Houſe; which yet muſt be deemed abſolutely neceſſary for an *Engliſh* Hiſtorian. It is certain that he never ſo much as ſaw the *Paper Office*, or he could never have been guilty of that groſs miſtake in affirming, that there is not any one Letter, that paſſed between Queen *Mary* of *Scotland* and Queen *Elizabeth* and her Miniſters, preſerved in any of our Archives or Repoſitories of public Papers; when, if he had ever looked into the Preſs in that *Office* marked Scotland, an hundred Labels would have offered themſelves to his ſight, put on different bundles, and expreſſing them to be Letters from thoſe very perſons to one another in different years from 1569 to 1587. In this *Office* are preſerved the Letters of all our Embaſſadors in foreign Courts, and the Diſpatches of the Lords of the Privy Council, of the Clerks of the Council, and of our Secretaries of State to thoſe Embaſſadors, in a conſtant

conſtant ſeries from the time of *Edward* IV. down to the Revolution in a regular order; beſides a great number of original Treaties and other Papers, which will be found exceeding uſeful for an *Engliſh* Hiſtory. It will appear ſtrange to every one, who conſiders how neceſſary theſe are for the right underſtanding of our Negotiations abroad and our tranſactions with foreign States, that no Hiſtorian hath yet made any uſe of the Papers in this *Office*.

It is highly fitting, that a Writer of the Hiſtory of any Kingdom ſhould be in a good meaſure acquainted with the Conſtitution, Hiſtory, Intereſts and Situation of the Countries adjoining, with which there is a continual intercourſe of friendly or hoſtile tranſactions. The Records likewiſe of all Countries for the ſame reaſon furniſh abundance of Memoirs for the Hiſtory of their Neighbours. This I have found particularly in *France*, where the Territories which our Kings held of that Crown, obliged them to a perpetual correſpondence; as the oppreſſions which the Provinces ſubject to *England* ſuffered from their Governors, cauſed continual repreſentations and complaints of grievances to the Kings of *France* or the *Parlement* of *Paris*, and gave occaſion to thoſe quarrels, that broke out ſo often into open wars. I have likewiſe ſeen in the Negotiations of the *French* Embaſſadors in *England*, much better accounts of paſſages in our Court, of the characters of the Great Men about it, and of tranſactions in this Kingdom, than I have yet ſeen in any of our Hiſtories. I have by me ſome tranſcripts of theſe Negotiations: I have read others; and as the *French* are careful to preſerve in their families all the Acts of their Anceſtors, it is eaſy enough to procure them for at leaſt 200 years paſt.

These materials for an Hiſtory of *England*, are mentioned, not only as the moſt neceſſary and uſeful for that purpoſe, but alſo as ſerving to point

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out the reaſon, why we have hitherto wanted a good one; which I would fain think to be, not ſo much a dread of the labour requiſite for ſuch a Work, as the greatneſs of the expence in procuring theſe materials; an expence which no private perſon is able to ſupport. But what a ſingle man cannot do, may eaſily be done by a Society. The world ſeems to be ſatisfied of the uſe of ſuch Societies in other caſes. There is one lately formed for the *Encouragement of Learning*, and as the very nature of the materials to be procured ſhews the neceſſity of another in the preſent caſe, it is hoped that a Society may be likewiſe formed to *encourage the writing of an Hiſtory of* England; which, notwithſtanding the great expence of the neceſſary materials *&c.* will not perhaps coſt more annually, than an *Opera Subſcription* hath done of late years; though this ſerves only for the tranſient amuſement of ſome winter evenings to particular perſons, whereas a good Hiſtory founded on ſuch materials will be a laſting benefit to the Public.

It may not be improper to obſerve farther, that no time ſhould be loſt in ſetting about ſuch a Work, becauſe many materials are daily decaying and periſhing; and thoſe in private hands are ſubject to various accidents, beſides that of fire, which lately made ſuch deſtruction in the *Cotton Library*; and that when a Work of this nature is undertaken upon public encouragement, every private perſon who hath any uſeful materials for it, will (as I have already experienced) be diſpoſed to open his treaſures, and communicate them for the publick good, and for advancing the perfection of a Work that may do ſome Honour to his Country.

March 4, 1736-7. T. C.

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II.

A General Account *of the neceſſary Materials for an* History *of* England, *the Society and Subſcription propoſed for defraying the Expences thereof, and the Method wherein Mr.* Carte *intends to proceed in carrying on the ſaid Work.*

THERE is nothing of greater importance, or that may be made of greater ſervice to a Nation, than a faithful Hiſtory of its Conſtitution, Laws, Affairs, Commerce, and Situation in all Ages. *England* in this reſpect is more unhappy, becauſe more defective, than moſt other Countries in *Europe*. Whether this be owing to any want of Genius in our Writers, or of that Encouragement, and thoſe Aſſiſtances, which are ſo liberally and ſo frequently given to ſuch public Works, by Princes, by Bodies of men, and by particular Perſons abroad, or to any dread of that extraordinary induſtry and continual application which are neceſſary for the due execution of an undertaking of that nature, is not ſo certain, as the defect itſelf is viſible.

Some Hiſtorians indeed we have, but their accounts of things are generally borrowed from old Chronicles, compiled chiefly by Monks, and other well-meaning but injudicious Writers; who, though perhaps able to convey to us the memory of Facts and Events which paſſed openly in the view of the world, were no way qualified to diſcover the more ſecret ſprings, motives, and cauſes of ſuch Facts and Events. Hence it is that their Hiſtories contain little more than relations of battles, ſieges, and other warlike exploits of our anceſtors; relations very little inſtructive to military men now-a-days, and which, however they may ſtrike the fancy, or flatter

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the fighting humour of our countrymen, are certainly much leſs for the ſervice, and not more for the glory of the nation, than a judicious account of the nature and wiſdom of our Laws and Conſtitution would be for its honour. *Rapin* indeed hath made uſe of thoſe Treaties of our Kings with foreign Princes which are printed in *Rymer's Fœdera*; but he is as entirely ſilent as any of the reſt, with regard to the Negotiations preceding thoſe Treaties, which are yet generally neceſſary for a clear underſtanding, as well of the true meaning of ſuch Treaties, as of the diſputes which were to be thereby determined. Writing his Hiſtory abroad, he had no opportunity either of conſulting perſons better verſed in our Antiquities than himſelf, or of ſearching into any of our Records and repoſitories of Public papers. Being likewiſe a foreigner unacquainted with our Conſtitution, he was in no reſpect qualified to give us the Civil Hiſtory of this Nation; which has not as yet been attempted by any one except Dr. *Brady*, whoſe work was by his death left imperfect: ſo that an Hiſtory of our Conſtitution, Laws, Uſages, Cuſtoms and Manners, with the various, whether ſudden or gradual alterations, which theſe have undergone, in the courſe of time, the occaſions, motives, and ſteps by which they were brought about, and the effects thereof on the nation, is a work that yet remains to be executed.

Every body however muſt be ſenſible that this is the moſt intereſting part of our Hiſtory to the nation in general; the rights of all bodies of men, eccleſiaſtical and civil, as well as of particular perſons being concerned therein. In a Civil Hiſtory, founded upon authentic Records and Materials, we may expect to ſee ſtated the juſt bounds of the Prerogative of the Crown, and Extent of the Liberties of the Subject, by judicious accounts of the exerciſe of the one, and the enjoyment of the other in the beſt

reigns,

reigns, and the abuſes of both in the worſt. An Hiſtory of our Laws, and Account of the Times, Authors, and Occaſions of their being eſtabliſhed, will be very uſeful to let us into their true meaning, and is neceſſary in many caſes to prevent or correct blunders that might ariſe from the want of that knowledge. The like Hiſtorical Account of our Inſtitutions and Cuſtoms will beſt ſhew us the reaſon and nature thereof, and the uſes for which they were deſigned; will open to us the true ſtate of diſputes that have happened in former days on account thereof, and remove miſtakes that multitudes are ſtill apt to fall into, for want of underſtanding their true original and antient uſage. By ſuch an Hiſtory the people of *England* will ſee upon what foundation their Civil Rights, Privileges, and Liberties ſtand, and be better enabled to ſupport them: They will ſee what invaſions or encroachments have been made upon any of theſe from time to time, by what ſteps, and under what pretences they have been effected, what have been the conſequences of ſuch encroachments, and be better guarded to prevent the like for the future: They will ſee what changes have happened in our Courts of Judicature, in our Maxims of Law, and in our Methods of Juſtice, what alterations have been made in received Uſages and Practices, that were ſo many inſtances or barriers of our Rights and Liberties, by fictions ſcarce exempt from the charge of abſurdity, and by pretences that would hardly ſtand the teſt of cool reaſon and examination; and what effects have followed ſuch deviations from old rules; and thus by the experience of former ages they will be inſtructed how to reform what is or ſhall be amiſs, and to do it in the ſafeſt and moſt effectual manner, by returning to the old rules, eſtabliſhed by the wiſdom, and warranted by the practice of their anceſtors.

It muſt be confeſſed, that the compoſing of ſuch a Civil Hiſtory is a work of no ſmall difficulty. Be-

ſides a love of truth, impartiality, and exactneſs, qualities eſſentially neceſſary to an Hiſtorian, it requires a large fund, and extent of knowledge and learning of various kinds (various as the ſubjects which make up the matter of an Hiſtory, and the occaſions of diſputes which ariſe in a long ſucceſſion of ages,) a clear head to digeſt the great variety and abundance of materials on each ſubject, and a continual exerciſe of the judgment in the uſe of them. It is a Work of infinite labour, and cannot be executed with the accuracy that it deſerves, without painful ſearches into Antiquity, and a large correſpondence with learned men who have made it their ſtudy, in other nations as well as our own, not without travelling thro' a prodigious number of old Records, not eaſy to be read, nor always to be underſtood, and applied to their proper uſes, without a conſtant attention and careful obſervation. Whoever undertakes a Work of this nature, muſt have leiſure to go thro' with it; he muſt not be encumbered with charges which require attendance, and are crowded with buſineſs that take up his time; which muſt be entirely dedicated to this purpoſe, or he can never propoſe to ſee an end, nor others hope to reap the fruit of his labours. Men of buſineſs employed in public affairs, and endowed with that knowledge, and thoſe qualifications which have in all ages been deemed neceſſary for ſuch employments, uſed to Negotiations and Matters of State, are certainly fitter than any others to write Hiſtory, (of which we have a ſpecimen in Sir *William Temple's Introduction to the Hiſtory of England*) but they have generally the leaſt leiſure of any for ſuch a work. It is however abſolutely neceſſary that an Hiſtorian ſhould have ſome knowledge of the World, and of human Nature, as well as of Books and Records; and ſhould likewiſe be acquainted with the Hiſtory, Conſtitution, Antiquities, and Uſages of other Countries, whoſe Hiſtory is interwoven with that

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of their neighbours, and whoſe antient uſages ſerve in many inſtances to illuſtrate thoſe of our own country.

WHATEVER reaſon has hindered Writers properly qualified from undertaking the Civil part of our Hiſtory, it certainly could not be the want of materials; the *Cotton* Library alone containing more, as well relating to our Conſtitution and Cuſtoms, as to Treaties and Tranſactions with foreign States, than any other nation can boaſt of for its own Hiſtory. Our Records are generally kept in better order, and more eaſy to be conſulted, than thoſe of other countries; and a ſmall number of inſtruments preſerved in our archives, diſcover more of the genius of a Prince, and the manner of his government, and would give a much clearer light into ſome of the moſt remarkable Tranſactions in ſeveral reigns, than all the Hiſtories of *England* hitherto publiſhed.—*Rymer* indeed has printed ſeveral Volumes of Records enrolled in *Chancery*; but he has not given us one out of the *Exchequer*, where there are as many of much greater importance to the ſubject than moſt in his collection, and where likewiſe are abundance of Treaties with foreign Princes; it being in their *Exchequer* that moſt of the Kings of *Europe* uſed antiently to enrol ſuch Treaties. *Powel* in his *Repertory of Records*, gives us a liſt of the contracting powers, dates, *&c.* of above 400 Treaties of our Kings with foreign Princes, which are not to be found in *Rymer*. *The Rolls of Parliament*, the *Journals of both Houſes*, and the *Books of the Privy Council*, will give great light to an Hiſtorian in many caſes of the higheſt conſequence; the moſt weighty affairs that paſs as well within as without the nation, being uſually debated and tranſacted in thoſe aſſemblies. The *Paper Office*, beſides great numbers of original Treaties under ſeal, and other valuable Papers, contains the Letters of all our Embaſſadors in foreign Courts, and the Diſpatches of the Lords of the Privy Council, the Clerks of the

Council, and the Secretaries of State to thoſe Embaſſadors, in a conſtant ſeries from the time of *Edward* IV. down to the Revolution, in a regular order. Theſe will fully inſtruct us in the Negotiations and Tranſactions we have had with foreign Princes, of which no Hiſtorian hitherto has ever pretended to give us any account. Theſe are authentic materials for an Hiſtory, but have never been made uſe of by any Writer yet extant, tho' it is impoſſible we ſhould ever have a good one without their being carefully conſulted. In the Archives of *Durham*, and other antient Cathedrals, are preſerved a great number of Charters of our Kings, and other Records of greater antiquity than any that are to be ſeen in the *Tower*. In the *Tally Office* are kept a prodigious number of public Papers relating to the *Reformation* and Reigns of *Henry* VIII. *Edward* VI. Queen *Mary*, and Queen *Elizabeth*. Abundance of Grants, Orders of our Kings, and other Inſtruments are entered in the *Office of the Privy Seal*, which never paſſed the Great Seal: And in the *Houſhold* or *Greencloth Records*, beſides the Accounts of the Houſhold, are preſerved the moſt antient Letters of correſpondence between our Kings and foreign Princes, repoſed there before the *Paper Office* was erected. Beſides theſe Materials hitherto untouched by any, there are vaſt quantities of others in the hands of private perſons, and in different Libraries of this Kingdom.

THERE is likewiſe another very conſiderable body of Materials, to which it is very proper, if not neceſſary, to have recourſe, tho' they muſt be ſought in foreign parts. There is always a continued intercourſe of friendly or hoſtile Tranſactions between adjoining Countries; for which reaſon the Records of all nations furniſh abundance of Materials for the Hiſtory of their neighbours. This I have obſerved particularly in *France*, where, in my ſearches for ſome years together after Records relating to *England*, I took

took notes or made abſtracts of above a thouſand in ſtruments of Treaties and Tranſactions between the two Kingdoms; ſcarce any of which appear in *Rymer*. I have there likewiſe ſeen in the Letters and Negotiations of *French* Embaſſadors in *England*, much better accounts of paſſages in our Court, of the Characters of great men about it, and of Tranſactions in this Kingdom, than I have yet ſeen in any of our Hiſtorians. Theſe are the more to be relied on, becauſe Embaſſadors always write truth to their maſters, and relate things nakedly as they paſs without diſguiſe or reſerve. In theſe are to be ſeen very curious accounts of verbal Conferences and Treaties of thoſe Miniſters with our Kings, their Privy Council and Secretaries, which being either heard by our Princes, or verbally related to them, are not here committed to writing, and are therefore no where to be found, but in the relations thereof ſent to foreign Princes. Theſe relations are very uſeful, not only to give us juſt accounts of public Affairs, but alſo a true notion of the Character, Genius, Capacity and Judgment of our Kings: Thus, *e. g.* how great ſoever Queen *Elizabeth* appears in her actions, or is repreſented in Hiſtory, ſhe appears ſtill greater in the Negotiations of thoſe Embaſſadors. The *Comte de Beaumont* was Embaſſador here, from *Henry* IV. in the two laſt years of her reign; he was obliged to have frequent Conferences with her Majeſty, the Lords and Committees of Council, about matters of Commerce and State between the two Crowns; and in his relations thereof, all turning on the ſame ſubject (whether it was owing to their being cramped by Inſtructions, or to her greater Experience) ſhe diſcovers even in the decline of her life a penetration, capacity, and judgment, far ſuperior to all her Miniſters. The ſame Embaſſador continued here the three firſt years of her ſucceſſor; and in his account of the like Conferences with that Prince, King

James

James I. ſhews indeed a great ſagacity, clearneſs, honeſty, and ſincerity, in every part of his treating, but the trifling part of his character is ſtill ſure to betray itſelf, he continually interrupting the moſt ſerious and important debates, by ſome queſtion or complaint about a Sermon preached at *Charenton*, a Diſcourſe or Book of ſome Jeſuit, or a Theſis maintained in the *Sorbonne*. I have by me ſome Tranſcripts of thoſe Negotiations; I have read others; and as the *French* are careful to preſerve in their families all the acts of their anceſtors, it will not be difficult to procure them for at leaſt 200 Years paſt; and as many of them conſiſt of ſeveral volumes (*e. g.* the *Comte de Beaumont*'s of three, M. *d' Effiat*'s of four, M. *du Bellay*'s of five, and M. *de Noailles* of ſix) the copies thereof, with the vaſt number of Treaties and Pieces, to be tranſcribed from the *French* Records, will probably take up near 200 volumes in Folio.

Besides all this, it will be neceſſary to make uſe of an infinite number of printed Books, relating as well to our own Hiſtory and Antiquities, as to thoſe of adjoining Kingdoms, and of the Northern Nations, from whom we derive our origin, or who by force ſettled themſelves in this Country. There muſt be a very great expence in the procuring of theſe. The tranſcripts of the *French* Negotiations and Records alone, would (if all were neceſſary to be copied) at the rate of 5 *l.* a Volume in folio, coſt 1000 *l.* In the ſearch of our Records in all the different Offices abovementioned, if one Inſtrument in five hundred were to be copied, entire, there would ſeveral thouſands of them be tranſcribed. The Manuſcripts in publick Libraries cannot be tranſported thence, their rules hindering the communication of them at a diſtance. Private perſons that have Negotiations of their anceſtors and other Memoirs, and are ready to communicate them, may yet be unwilling to

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truſt them out of their houſes: and in ſuch caſe it will be neceſſary to travel thither, (as it muſt always be in the caſe of Records of Cathedrals) with at leaſt one Amanuenſis to make the quicker diſpatch in copying entire pieces, at the ſame time that extracts are making of others. There will be likewiſe continual employment for other Amanuenſes; for though every Work, be it never ſo great, muſt ever be done by one man, and every material viewed and conſidered by him; yet he cannot be too well ſupplied with aſſiſtance to eaſe him of the dry labour of tranſcripts. For the accommodation of himſelf and theſe Amanuenſes, as well for arranging and keeping the vaſt quantities and different kinds of materials in a proper order, he muſt have an houſe conveniently ſeated near the *Cotton Library*, Paper-Office, and the Records at *Weſtminſter*; which with the neceſſity of living in *London* whilſt thoſe Repoſitories of publick Papers are ſearching, and of correſponding with learned men both at home and abroad for the clearing up of ancient Cuſtoms and Uſages, will be another occaſion of great expence.

FROM theſe conſiderations it is manifeſt, that we never can have a good and inſtructive Hiſtory of *England*, without the uſe of the materials beforementioned; that thoſe materials cannot be procured without a vaſt expence, too great for any private purſe to defray; and that as a Man of the beſt capacity on earth cannot execute a Work of that nature without being ſupplied with thoſe materials, ſo it would be ridiculous in any one to attempt it without a proper aſſurance of being ſupported in the neceſſary expence. There is no reaſon therefore to imagine it will be ever ſet about till ſuch aſſurance be given; and yet materials, (at leaſt thoſe in private hands,) are every day decaying and periſhing, being ſubject to fire, and various other accidents: So that the ſooner publick encouragement is given to the undertaking, the more

more likely will it be to be well executed; and in all caſes what is abſolutely neceſſary to be done, cannot be done too ſoon. For theſe reaſons it is propoſed, to the Nobility and Gentry, and to all Corporate Bodies and Societies within the Kingdom, to contribute to the charges of a Work, in which all their Intereſts are concerned, and which, by a *Propoſal for removing the Impediments of writing an Hiſtory of England* printed laſt year, I declared my ſelf ready to engage in, if thereby enabled to procure thoſe authentic materials, without which no Hiſtory can be wrote, either for the inſtruction and benefit of this nation at home, or for its credit abroad.

In conſequence of that propoſal, and in order to make up a *Society for encouraging the writing of an Hiſtory of England*, (of a like nature with the Society lately formed for the Encouragement of Learning) ſeveral Noblemen and Gentlemen have ſigned an inſtrument, obliging themſelves to contribute, the former their twenty, the latter their ten Guineas a year, towards the charges of the work and materials. "Theſe Contributions are to be paid to a "Treaſurer of their own appointment, and are to "be iſſued out by him for thoſe charges in ſuch "form, manner, and proportion, as ſhall be di-"rected by a General Meeting of the Contributors, "or (if they ſhall think fit to order it) by a Com-"mittee of their body; an account of the expences "thereof, as well as of the progreſs of the work, "being from time to time to be laid before a General "Aſſembly of the Contributors, who (as in all rea-"ſon they ought to be ſatisfied in both theſe reſpects) "have the liberty of withdrawing their reſpective "Contributions, whenever they pleaſe, and ſhall "think fit to notify the ſame." Such are the terms of the inſtrument: and the Subſcription being now begun, it may not be improper for me to men-

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tion ſomething of the manner, wherein I propoſe to proceed in this undertaking.

An Hiſtory of this Nation muſt begin with a Diſcourſe upon the original Inhabitants thereof (which undoubtedly were the *Britons*) and the State of the Country under the *Romans*. It is not to be expected that we ſhould be more happy than our neighbours, in having in thoſe early and dark times any Writers to convey to us a regular Series of Affairs or Hiſtorical Paſſages. All that can be done at this diſtance of time towards recovering an account of things which then paſſed is, to collect together all the ſcattered paſſages that are to be found in the Works of the moſt ancient writers who have had occaſion to mention theſe Iſlands, (in which I hope the aſſiſtance of learned men will not be wanting) and though little uſe can be made of theſe ſingly conſidered, yet ſome light may poſſibly ariſe from them all aſſembled together, and taken in one view But with regard to theſe times, the greateſt helps are to be found in the diſquiſitions of our antiquaries upon the *Roman* names of Places, Encampments, and other Remains in *England*, in which abundance of hiſtorical paſſages are rationally cleared up to the ſatisfaction of the learned world. Were the *Annals of Wales*, drawn up by the learned and judicious Mr. *Vaughan* of *Hengwrt* (author of the *Britiſh Antiquities revived*) and ſent by him to Archbiſhop *Uſher* for his peruſal and approbation, ſtill in being, it would probably clear up to us many conſiderable points both of Hiſtory and Chronology in the times of the *Britons*. But after all, if this Work ſhould not be found, I am in hopes its loſs may be in a great meaſure ſupplied by the Papers of the late learned Mr. *Edward Lhuyd*, Keeper of the *Muſeum* at *Oxford*, who had the uſe of all Mr. *Vaughan*'s Collections, and having with inceſſant labour and great exactneſs employ'd a conſiderable part of his life in ſearching into the Anti-

quities and Hiſtory of the *Welſh*, had peruſed or collected almoſt all that was ancient or valuable in their Manuſcripts, tranſcribed all the old Charters of their Monaſteries that he could meet with, examined into the Antiquities of *Ireland*, *Armoric Bretagne*, and other countries inhabited by the ſame people, compared them together, and made his obſervations upon the whole, but died before he had digeſted them in the form of a diſcourſe upon the original Inhabitants of theſe Iſlands. In order therefore to this firſt part of our Hiſtory, I propoſe to go through Mr. *Lhuyd*'s Collections, hoping they will afford ſomething curious and inſtructive on the Subject.

As to the times after the coming of the *Saxons* into this Iſland, we muſt not expect many Writers among a people more intent upon rapine and war than learning: nor indeed are there any more ancient than *Bede* (whoſe Hiſtory is chiefly, as well as profeſſedly, eccleſiaſtical) and ſcarce any of moment before the Conqueſt, beſides *Aſſerius Menevenſis*. But in all caſes where ſuch materials as were to be wiſhed for are not to be had, we can only make uſe of the beſt we have. Thus to ſupply the defect complained of, we muſt have recourſe to the Lives of Saints written by perſons cotemporary with them, and to the Charters of Monaſteries and Churches, great numbers of which are preſerved in the *Cotton* and *Harleyan* Libraries, and in the Regiſters and Cartularies of Religious Houſes, as well *Welſh* as *Engliſh*. It is evident, that thoſe who write the Lives of Saints, muſt neceſſarily take notice of the Princes that either perſecuted or protected them, and of many paſſages relating to thoſe Princes. There is likewiſe a great connexion between the Civil and Eccleſiaſtical Hiſtory of a Country: they are always blended together in old Chronicles and Charters; and the ſame pieces that convey to us the Knowledge

ledge of Biſhops and Abbots, the Foundation, Endowment, and Benefactions to Churches and Convents, acquaint us at the ſame time with the Kings, Princes and great Lords, that were the founders and benefactors. And if we obſerve what uſe Sir *William Dugdale* in his *Baronage* makes of the Charters publiſhed in his *Monaſticon*, for the the giving an account of the actions of the moſt ancient Barons by tenure, and their anceſtors in *England*, will ſee that conſiderable lights may be drawn from this ſource. The ſame appears from the firſt Volume lately publiſhed of the Hiſtory of *Languedoc* in *France*, a Work undertaken by the encouragement of the States of that province, who ſettled penſions on the *Benedictines* that were employ'd in it, and defray'd all the expence of ſearches and impreſſion, and other incident charges neceſſary or uſeful to its perfection. This Volume goes no further than *A. D.* 877. and yet it contains ſuch a number of original Charters and Deeds, that it is amazing how ſo many could be found in a ſingle province.

OTHER lights may be derived from a compariſon of the many old Chronicles in the *Cotton* Library; for though the authors thereof, like our old Hiſtorians ſoon after the conqueſt, borrow from one another, yet they would have been more uſeful if all theſe Chronicles had been reduced into one, the Chronology well adjuſted, the various Facts mentioned in each arranged in their proper order, in different columns, the principal thereof as the text taken from the moſt ancient, and continued downwards from time to time out of the Chronicles of ſuch Writers as were coeval with the facts they relate. Great helps are alſo afforded by the Collections lately publiſhed of *Saxon* Laws and Councils; from the latter of which more accounts of civil matters may be expected here than in other countries, becauſe our old councils were generally mixed aſſem-

blies of the great Lay-men and Biſhops, and both civil and eccleſiaſtical matters were treated of there. Theſe, with the accounts which the old writers of neighbouring nations give of ours, and thoſe which the *Daniſh*, *Norwegian*, and *Iſlandick* Hiſtorians give of the frequent invaſions of this Kingdom by the *Danes* for the ſpace of 200 years, and of the Manners, Uſages, and Cuſtoms of that people, are the beſt materials we have for an Hiſtory or more general account of affairs before the Conqueſt.

From that time downwards we are abundantly ſupplied with Hiſtorians, *Engliſh*, *Norman* and *French*, giving ample accounts of that great Revolution and of the Tranſactions of our Princes as well in *England*, as in the Dominions belonging to them in *France*. Some *Italian* writers lately publiſhed in *Muratori*'s Collection give us fuller relations of the Expeditions of *Richard* I. and *Edward* I. into the Holy Land than had been preſerved by our own writers. But in this great variety of Hiſtorians care muſt be taken to examine their different accounts, and from the time of *Richard* I. ſuch as are authentick may be generally verified by Records. For this purpoſe I propoſe to make a regular ſearch through all our Offices of Records in the Tower, Exchequer, *&c.* expecting from thence to be enabled, not only to clear up many hiſtorical facts that are diſputed, miſtaken, imperfectly related or utterly unknown, but alſo to give a diſtinct and ſatisfactory account of great numbers of ancient uſages and cuſtoms, which are not at preſent ſo clearly and generally underſtood as they deſerve, and this, as occaſions offer in the courſe of the Hiſtory, I ſhall endeavour to do by particular Diſſertations, as the moſt inſtructive manner of treating ſuch ſubjects, and the moſt agreeable to the Reader. In this reſpect the *Cotton* Library will be of great ſervice.

THE Letters of our Embaſſadors in the Paper-Office will (as I have obſerved) ſupply one notorious defect in all our Hiſtorians, who never pretend to give us any account of a Negotiation, or to ſhew where the ſtreſs and difficulties of a Treaty lay. The Rolls and Journals of Parliament, the Books of the Privy Council, the accounts of the King's Houſhold, the Greencloth Records, the Papers in the Privy-Seal and Signet Offices, thoſe of the reigns of *Henry* VIII. and *Edward* VI. in the Tally-Office, furniſh an infinite number of materials for every part of our Hiſtory; and the *Cotton* Library hath an immenſe number of pieces that ſerve by way of ſupplement to thoſe Offices; which having by ſome means or other been got thence into private hands, were recovered to the publick uſe and collected together by the care of the founder of that Library. All theſe muſt be thorougly ſearched: and though extracts of moſt of the papers there may generally ſuffice for the uſe of an Hiſtorian, yet an infinite number will be found of ſuch importance, that it will render them neceſſary to be copied entire.

AFTER all, though we have ſo vaſt a quantity of materials for an *Engliſh* Hiſtory in our own nation, it will be ſtill neceſſary to conſult the Records and Repoſitories of Papers in other countries, particularly in *France*, with which Kingdom, from the time of *William the Conqueror*, we had for ſome hundred of years a perpetual intercourſe and diſputes, by reaſon of the dominions which our Kings poſſeſſed in that country. The Records there preſerved in the *Treſor de Chartres*, the *Sainte Chappelle*, and the *Regiſtres du Parlement de Paris & de la Chambre des Comptes*, furniſh (as is ſaid before) above a thouſand inſtruments of Treaties and Tranſactions between the Crowns of *France* and *England* that are not in *Rymer*; the Titles, Notes, or Abſtracts whereof I have taken from thence, and have now by me in two volumes

volumes in folio. And as to the Negotiations of *French* Embaſſadors in *England*, of which I have already expreſſed ſo high an eſteem, (which is fully juſtified by the entire copies I took of ſome of them, and by what I have read of others) I have hereto annexed a catalogue of thoſe which I have obſerved at *Paris*; and as ſoon as I get from the Jewel-Office (whence preſents are uſually made to Embaſſadors at parting) a full account of the reſt that have reſided here, I am perſuaded I ſhall eaſily diſcover where their Negotiations alſo are preſerved.

As the firſt ſtep in order to a building is to collect the materials for it, I propoſe, as ſoon as I am enabled by a proper ſubſcription, to procure a general order (as hath been granted to *Rymer* and others) to ſearch into all Offices of Record and Repoſitories of Papers here, and to take copies by myſelf, aſſiſtants, and amanuenſes of ſuch pieces as I ſhall find neceſſary for my work. The firſt uſe I ſhall make thereof will be to go to the Exchequer Records to ſee what Treaties are there enrolled, and conſequently wanting in *Rymer*, whoſe firſt twelve volumes were taken out of the Records in the Tower, and the reſt out of thoſe in the Chapel of the Rolls. Theſe I propoſe firſt to get tranſcribed, and think it would be proper to publiſh them by way of ſupplement to the *Fœdera*; and the rather becauſe they may be more readily made uſe of when printed in order, than they can be whilſt they remain in Manuſcripts.

Having furniſhed myſelf with the dates, *&c.* of all the publick Treaties relating to *France* that are either in *Rymer*, or in any of our Records, and compared them with my own Extracts and Notes, of what I have ſeen in the *French* Records, I propoſe to go to *Paris* to compleat the Series of tranſactions with that court out of their Records; and to procure likewiſe tranſcripts of the Letters and Negotia-

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tions of their Embaſſadors in *England*. I flatter myſelf with the hopes of finding a greater Facility herein than a perſon leſs known in that country. Many of theſe Negotiations are in the King's Library, which by the acceſſion of the Libraries of M. *Colbert*, M. *Baluze*, the preſident *de Meſmes*, and other great men, is now much better ſtored in this reſpect than it was when I left *Paris*: And no copies can be taken of theſe without the order or licence of the *Garde des Sceaux*. This poſt is now remitted to the Chancellorſhip in the perſon of M. *D'Agueſſeau*, to whom I had the honour to be known, and was favoured by him with the uſe of the Manuſcripts of his own Library whilſt I continued at *Paris*. He is a very learned and very communicative man, and there will be little difficulty in obtaining ſuch a licence from him; but if he ſhould be ſoon ſucceeded by a perſon of a more narrow or bigotted ſpirit, it may probably become impracticable; ſo that this is a matter fit to be done without any delay. I ſhall have at the ſame time an opportunity of reading over great numbers of original Letters wrote by different Princes of *Europe*, (in which thoſe of *England* are included) to the Kings of *France*, the inſtructions given to the *French* Embaſſadors, diſpatches of their Miniſters and Secretaries of State, and acts of Treaties for many reigns backwards, and other curious Manuſcripts of Letters and Memoirs of State, beſides *Robert Wace*'s Hiſtory of the Dukes of *Normandy* and the Conqueſt of *England*, and other Hiſtories of our *Engliſh* affairs, which are preſerved in Manuſcript in the King of *France*'s and other Libraries at *Paris*, and have never yet appeared in print. Whoever reads *P. le Long*'s catalogue and accounts of the Memoirs and Letters abovementioned (in his *Bibliotheque Hiſtorique de la France*) will eaſily gueſs, that a large quantity of very curious extracts may be made from thence,

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for clearing up hiſtorical facts, and probably many pieces to be copied entire.

HAVING provided myſelf with theſe materials in *France* with as much diligence and expedition as is poſſible, I then propoſe to go thro' our Records in *England*, and thence take ſuch notes and tranſcripts as will be neceſſary. My firſt ſearch will be general, being intended by a view of the whole, to enable me to diſtinguiſh what kinds of them are to be uſed in each Reign, and to diſcover whether in ſome unobſerved and unaccuſtomed Office there may not be found an hidden treaſure of uſeful papers and materials unknown before, and of higher antiquity than could eaſily be imagined. I ſhall next ſet myſelf to extract or tranſcribe the particular Records neceſſary; which muſt be a work of time, and wherein I muſt begin with the earlieſt, becauſe they are firſt to be uſed. But the propoſed previous general view of the whole materials, ſeem to me to be neceſſary for enabling me the better to aſcertain the arrangement of the particulars; which, if they relate to any uſage or matter of Antiquity, muſt be according to the ſubject; and if to any hiſtorical fact, in the order of time; that ſo, without any trouble or confuſion, I may be ſure of having before me every material relating to any Subject or Reign, when it comes to be the ſubject of my writing. The like arrangement muſt be made with regard to the infinite number of printed Books, *&c.* which it will be neceſſary for me from time to time to conſult and compare.

THERE are doubtleſs great numbers of valuable materials in private hands; and as it may reaſonably be imagined, theſe do not relate to the earlieſt times of our Hiſtory, it may poſſibly be deemed not ſo neceſſary to procure them immediately. But certainly it muſt be thought proper to conſult ſuch materials, whilſt they may be had, and the owners are willing to communicate them; and I cannot too ſoon collect

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all that will be uſeful, in order to the arrangement thereof.

THIS is only a general ſketch of the method, in which I propoſe to proceed, and which I ſhall ſubmit to the judgment of the Society, or the learned Committee, to whom they ſhall delegate the care of their affairs. It appears thereby, that I have cut out labour enough for myſelf; for the collecting of the Materials, the ſearch of all Records and Papers, the making extracts thence, the digeſting them in a regular order for uſe, and, in fine, the entire compoſition of the Hiſtory can be done by none but myſelf. But however great the fatigue, and how continual ſoever the application muſt be, I find zeal and inclination enough to go through it, perhaps in leſs time than can eaſily be imagined. For as I have in the courſe of my life been conſtantly obſerving where any materials for ſuch a work are preſerved, the leſs time will be taken up in collecting them, if I be ſufficiently enabled to defray the charges thereof; and on this ſuppoſition, I am perſuaded, that I ſhall be able in ſeven years to bring our Hiſtory down ſo low as the Revolution. 'Tis a ſpace of time to which it may not unreaſonably be preſumed my life may extend, and I hope my conſtitution will enable me to hold out to the end of a work, which as it is now likely to be compoſed upon better materials, muſt, (if it be not the writer's fault) be better executed than any modern Hiſtory whatever. But (to ſuppoſe the worſt) in caſe it ſhould prove otherwiſe, the Materials provided, and digeſted as far as they go, will be ſtill in being, and at the diſpoſal of the Society, and ready for the uſe of any other perſon, whom they ſhall think proper to continue and finiſh the work.

THOMAS CARTE.

London, April 25, 1738.

French Embaſſadors in *England.*

A. D.

1396 —— *Nic. du Boſc*, Bp. of *Bayeux.*
1445 —— *L. de Bourbon*, Comte de *Vendoſme*, *J. Juvenal* des Urſins.
1519 —— L'Amiral *Bonivet.*
1525 —— Bp. of *Tarbes.*
1527 —— *Jean du Bellay*, Bp. of *Bayon.*
1528 to 1530 Sr. de *Langey.*
1535 —— *Jean du Bellay*, Bp. of *Paris.*
1536 —— Bp. of *Tarbes.*
1536 —— M. *d'Inteville.*
1537 —— Mareſchal de *Chaſtillon.*
1538 — Bp. of *Tarbes.*
1539 — M. *d'Inteville.*
1546 —— M. *de Saludie.*
1547 —— Ditto.
1548 —— *Jean de Selves.*
M. *de Marillac.*
1553 — *Antoine*
— — *François* } *de Noailles.*
1559 — *Gilles*
1559 —— Le Chevalier de *Seure.*
1560 —— *J. Montluc*, Bp. of *Valence.*
1561 ——
1563 —— M. d' *Alluye.*
1566 —— M. de *Caſtelnau*, Sr. de la *Mauviſſiere.*
1571 —— Fr. de *Montmorency* and *Paul de Foix*, Embaſſ. Extraord.
1569 to 1575 B. de *Salignac*, Sieur de la *Mothe Fenelon.*
1580 —— Mareſchal de *Coſté.*
1581 —— M. *Pinart*, Secretaire d'Etat.
1581 —— M. *Briſſon.*
1586, 1587 *Pompone de Bellievre.*
1593 —— Le Sieur de *Morlas.*
1595 —— M. de *Lomenie*, Sieur de *Ville-aux-clercs.*
1595, 1596, 1597, 1598 M. de *Hurault*, Sieur de *Maiſſe.*
1596 —— Duc de *Bouillon* and M. de *Harlay Sancy.*
1600, 1601 M de *Boiſſiſe.*
1602 to 1605 Chriſt. de *Harlay*, Comte de *Beaumont.*
1603 —— M. de *Roſne*, and M. de *Vitry*, Embaſſ Extraord. 1606

1606 to 1610 M. de la *Boderie.*
1610 —— M. de *Pompone* and le Mareſchal de *Lavardin.*
1612 —— Duc de *Bouillon.*
1615 to 1518 Comte des *Mareſt.*
1624 and 1625 M. d'*Effiat.*
1625 and 1626 M. de *Blainville.*
1626 {—— M. de *Baſſompierre.* —— M. de *Chateauneuf.*
1630 to 1633 M. de *Fontenay Mareuil.*
1638 —— M. de *Bellievre.*
1642 —— Ditto
1643 —— M. d' *Eſtampes.*
1644 to 1646 M. de *Sabran.*
1646 to 1650 M. de *Monſtreuil.*
1647 —— M. de *Bellievre.*
1652 to 1660 *Ant. de Neuville,* Sieur de *Bordeaux.*
1663 —— M. de *Comminges.*
1668 and 1669 M. de *Colbert Croiſſy.*
1670 and 1671 M. de *Baas.*
1672 —— M. *Colbert.*
1674 {—— M. de *Ruvigny.* —— M. de *Barillon.*
1683 —— M. de *Tilladet.*
1689 —— Comte d' *Avaux,* — in *Ireland.*

III.

ADVERTISEMENT

In relation to

Mr. CARTE's Hiſtory of *England.*

SIX years are paſſed, ſince I publiſhed *A General Account of the neceſſary Materials for a Hiſtory of England,* and of the Method wherein I propoſed to carry on that Work. The vaſt expence of procuring thoſe Materials, too heavy for any private perſon to ſupport, rendered it neceſſary to at-

tempt the raiſing of a fund ſufficient to defray it, by the contribution of publick Bodies as well as of particular Perſons for that purpoſe. It was propoſed that the Contributors "ſhould form themſelves into "a Society, and chooſe a Treaſurer, for receiving "their reſpective Contributions, and for iſſuing out "money to defray the neceſſary charges of tran-"ſcripts, &c. in ſuch form, manner, and proportion "as ſhall be directed in a General Meeting of the "Society, or by a Committee of Contributors cho-"ſen out of the whole Body for thoſe purpoſes, as "well as for overſeeing the progreſs of the Work." As it is highly fitting that every Contributor ſhould have entire Satisfaction given him in all thoſe reſpects, it was provided in the Inſtrument drawn up to be ſigned by the Subſcribers, that reports thereof ſhould be made from time to time by the Committee to the General Aſſembly; and each Contributor, in caſe he found any ground of exception, ſhould be at liberty to withdraw his contribution whenever he pleaſed or ſhould think fit to notify the ſame.

THE Undertaker of that Hiſtory, for which the moſt important and chargeable Materials were to be thus provided, had engaged in it out of no motive but publick Spirit, and with no view but that of doing ſervice to his Country. He was ready to bring all the knowledge he had acquired in the different Studies of his Life, and all the Obſervations he had made in a courſe of thirty years ſearching into the Records, the Antiquities, and the Hiſtory of this Nation, and to employ all his time and labour for the future, towards carrying on the ſaid Work: but he reſolved to touch none of the Contributors money; and the Regulations abovementioned ſhew plainly, that he had no view of any private advantage to himſelf. The World in general was ſo well ſatisfied of the fairneſs of the Propoſals, and ſo fully convinced of the neceſſity of a general contribution for

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raiſing a fund anſwerable to the expences requiſite for procuring the Materials mentioned in the ſaid *General Account*, that a great many Noblemen and Gentlemen, acted by a publick Spirit rarely equalled in any Country, ſubſcribed their twenty and ten guineas a year, for the ſpace of ſeven years, towards the charges of the ſaid Materials and of the Amanuenſes neceſſary for the greater diſpatch of the Work.

But as the ſums ſubſcribed by particular perſons did not appear ſufficient for the needful expences, it was thought proper to take in the aſſiſtance of Corporate Bodies, and to apply particularly to the City of *London*, in which the moſt generous encouragers of all publick works have been ever found, and whoſe example might probably have a proper influence upon others. The State of the Caſe, and the *Account* of *the Neceſſary Materials* were accordingly communicated to the greateſt part of the Repreſentative Body of that City: and there ſeemed a general diſpoſition in all parties to encourage the Undertaking, and to ſubſcribe a conſiderable yearly ſum in the name of the City. But the affair of the Manſion Houſe having at that time given occaſion to various diſputes, and raiſed great animoſities among the Citizens, it was thought adviſable by thoſe who were moſt zealous in promoting the ſubſcription (which at any other time would not, in their opinion, meet with the leaſt oppoſition) to defer the motion to a more favourable opportunity.

'Till that opportunity offered, I reſolved to go on with the Work at my own expence; which has been much greater than is proper for me to mention, or can be eaſily conceived by others: and have dedicated to it all the time I have ſince had to command. I went to *Paris*, where, through the humanity and friendſhip of the Learned Abbé *Sallier* Keeper of the Royal Library, I had an opportunity of peruſing all thoſe Materials for an *Engliſh* Hiſtory, which are taken

ken notice of in the *General Account*, page 23. He lent me all the Manuſcripts of that Library, which I had occaſion for, and upon my ſimple note of receipt, ſent them home to my lodgings by four, or five, and ſometimes more, Volumes at a time; ſo deſirous are they *abroad* to make their Libraries uſeful to the World, and ſuch a facility do Learned Men meet with in *that Country*, in having the moſt curious Manuſcripts, that can contribute to any public Work they have undertaken, communicated to them, with all the ſaving of time and circumſtances of *convenience* that they can deſire. There I read over ſeveral Volumes of original Letters wrote by our *Engliſh* as well as other Princes of *Europe* to the Kings of *France*, the Inſtructions given to *French* Embaſſadors ſent into *England* and other Countries, diſpatches of their Miniſters of State, abundance of other Memoires relative to our Hiſtory, and ſeveral ancient Chronicles and Annals of *Engliſh* Affairs, which are to be ſeen in that Library, the beſt furniſhed with Manuſcripts of any in *Europe*. There I copied *Robert Wace*'s Hiſtory of the Dukes of *Normandy* and the Conqueſt of *England*, from a Manuſcript of the Author's age, and a great many Treaties between the Crowns of *France* and *Scotland*, and even *England*, which are not printed in *Rymer*. There I peruſed all the Letters and Negotiations of the *French* Embaſſadors in *England* mentioned in the Catalogue at the end of my *General Account*, from the year 1396 to 1660, and thoſe of Signor *Valarezzo* and other *Venetian* Embaſſadors at the Court of *England* in the time of K. *James* I; all which are preſerved in that Library; except ſome few, which I met with in private hands, or copied from other Libraries.

Of this laſt ſort are the Negotiations of M. *D'Effiat* in 1624 and 1625, of M. *de Monſtreuil* from 1646 to 1650, and of *Antoine de Neuville Sieur de Bordeaux* from 1652 to 1660, which I copied from the Manuſcripts

nuſcripts in the Library of *S. Germain des Prez.* The three Brothers *Antoine*, *François*, and *Gilles de Noailles*, Anceſtors of the preſent *Mareſchal* of that name, were Embaſſadors here, during all the reign of Q. *Mary* and firſt year and half of Q. *Elizabeth.* Their Letters and Negotiations are only to be found in the Cabinet of the Mareſchal *de Noailles*, and are ſo very valuable that *Aniſſon* the Bookſeller on the *Quay des Auguſtins* at *Paris* offered his Grace thirty thouſand Livres for a copy thereof, in order to print them. The *Mareſchal* refuſed the offer, yet, by a wonderful generoſity, allowed me to take a copy of all thoſe Negotiations without any condition, but the obliging one of ſending him a copy of my Hiſtory, when it was publiſhed. The Letters and Negotiations of *Bertrand de Salignac Sieur de la Mothe-Fenelon*, who reſided eight years at the Court of Q. *Elizabeth*, and was Embaſſador here from the beginning of A. D. 1569 to 1576, are only in the hands of the preſent Marqueſs *de Fenelon.* They take up five large Volumes cloſely wrote in Folio, and contain an infinite number of curious paſſages, particularly in relation to Q. *Mary* of *Scotland*, a great many of whoſe Letters are there inſerted. The Marqueſs coming, in the Lent of 1740, from his Embaſſy in *Holland* to paſs three or four weeks at *Paris* in ſettling his private affairs, I applied to him for the uſe of thoſe Volumes, which he very kindly granted; and I would gladly have copied them entirely: but he expecting every day to be ordered back to the *Hague*, I was apprehenſive that I ſhould not have time enough for a tranſcript, and was therefore forced to content myſelf with making extracts of all the material paſſages and principal circumſtances therein, tho' I yet made them as ample as the time would allow. I was for another reaſon, full as cogent, I mean the want of ability to defray the charge of entire tranſcripts, obliged to take up with the like Extracts of

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the Negotiations of ſeveral of the Embaſſadors mentioned in the aforeſaid Liſt, that is, of ſuch as reſided here in ſettled times; for as to thoſe who reſided at this Court in times of Revolution, as Meſſrs *de Noailles* at the time of the Reformation, and Meſſrs *de Sabran*, *de Monſtreuil*, & *de Bordeaux*, who were here during the Confuſions and Uſurpations that happened between 1641 and 1660, I have been ever careful to take entire Copies of their Negotiations.

As for the laſt ſeven or eight *French* Embaſſadors in *England* after the Year 1660. mentioned in the aforeſaid Liſt, their Negotiations are not in the King of *France*'s Library, nor even in the hands of any of their Deſcendents; for I ſpared no pains in enquiring after them among every branch of their Families. *P. Le Long* indeed, in his *Bibliotheque Hiſtorique de la France* ſays of thoſe of M. *de Colbert* in 1672. and of M. *de Colbert Croiſſy* in 1668 and 1669. that they were in the Library of the late M. *de Colbert Croiſſy*, Biſhop of *Montpelier:* but M. *de Torcy* himſelf, to whom that Prelate had left his Library, on condition of paying a ſum of money to an Hoſpital, and to whom I applied for them, told me *it was a miſtake*; and that *they had been delivered up to Louis* XIV. (which I am perſuaded was the general Practiſe in that Prince's reign) and were now only to be found in the *Depot pour les affaires etrangeres*.

This *Depot* anſwers to our *Paper Office* in *England*, and is under the direction of the Miniſter for Foreign Affairs, who appoints the Keeper of it. It is kept over the Weſt Gatehouſe of the *Old Louvre*, in ſeveral chambers; there being a diſtinct one allotted to the Negociations of each Country. That for *England* is full of Treaties, Negotiations, and Letters of Embaſſadors at the Court of *London* from the time of *Philip Auguſtus* to the preſent age. Theſe are kept in great order, and very well preſerved; not tied up in bundles (as thoſe in our *Paper office* are) but always

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ready for uſe, bound up in Volumes, with very good tables to each Volume, and a general Table to the whole, ſo well digeſted, that a Miniſter may, by looking into it and calling for the Volumes to which it refers, inform himſelf in an hour's time of all that has ever been tranſacted or determined, with regard to any diſputed claim, right, poſſeſſion, place or ceremonial, in any Treaty or Negotiation for ſeveral ages paſt between *France* and other Potentates; which muſt certainly be a great advantage to their Miniſters on many occaſions. I ſpent a morning with M. *Le Dran* the late Keeper of it, in looking over this *Depot*; and he aſſuring me of his endeavours to procure me free acceſs to it, I drew up and gave him a *Memoire* for that purpoſe: but he dying immediately after, and *Abbe de Ville*, who ſucceeded him, being ordered away for *Holland*, preſently after he was put into that poſt, I had no anſwer to my *Memoire*, and made no farther application, as imagining it too great a confidence to be be aſked by a ſtranger. I have ſince had ſome reaſon to think myſelf miſtaken in this notion; for after a diligent ſearch during my laſt ſtay at *Paris* for the Negotiations of M. *de Barillon*, Embaſſador here from *A. D.* 1677 to 1689, after enquiring for them of the preſent M. *de Barillon*, Counſellor of the Parliament of *Paris*, grandſon to the former, and of the Marqueſſes of *Bligny* and *Malciſſis* (who married his two ſiſters) and finding they were in none of their Libraries, I deſired at my coming away a friend to apply to another Grandſon of the Embaſſador's, by his only Daughter: and it was ſignified to me on that occaſion, that if M. *de Barillon*'s Negotiations were not in his own Library, they were at leaſt in the *Depot* for foreign affairs, and I ſhould have them thence, whenever I wanted them, to tranſcribe as I ſhould ſee proper; it being a fitting civility to be rendered to a perſon who had done ſo great a ſervice to that country by

publiſhing a Catalogue of the *Gaſcon*, *Norman*, and *French* Rolls in the Tower of *London*, and thereby acquainting the Gentlemen of *France* with many thouſands of Records relating to their Families and Eſtates in the Provinces formerly ſubject to the Crown of *England*; which they had ever before ſought for in vain.

A man that expects to be ſerved in any country, muſt always make himſelf uſeful to it; and if they will favour me with a courſe of Negotiations of ſo late a date, the lateſt I had to deſire, I may reaſonably expect the like favour with regard to any others in that *Depot* of a longer ſtanding and remoter Antiquity. To go through the Treaſures in it, would be well worth another journey to *Paris*, when I come to that part of our Hiſtory, to which they relate. But tho' I did not in my former journeys meet with thoſe Negotiations in the reign of K. *Charles* II. which I expected, I was amply recompenced by finding there another Body of Memoirs, the beſt and moſt authentick that are any where in being, of all Tranſactions from the beginning to the end of that Prince's reign; which took me up four months, every week-day from morning till night, without a moment's intermiſſion, in tranſcribing, and are very well worth all the pains I took, and fatigue that I underwent on that occaſion.

THESE ſearches after *Memoires* in later ages, did not hinder me from examining into the tranſactions of remoter times, and collecting whatever could give light to the *Britiſh* affairs in the firſt ages of our Hiſtory. The Lives of our *Britiſh* and *Saxon* Saints, that appear in the Collections of *Bollandus*, *Surius*, *Mabillon*, *Colgan*, and others, have furniſhed ſome materials for that purpoſe. I have gone through the papers and collections of the late Mr. *Edward Lhuyd* Keeper of the Muſeum at *Oxford*, and have there found a great number of tranſcripts of Hiſtorical paſ-

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ſages out of the *Liber Landavenſis*, or Regiſter of the Church of *Landaff*, begun in S. *Theliau's* time about *A. D.* 520. and continued down (as Biſhop *Godwin* ſays) to *A. D.* 1110. and other ancient Regiſters, Leiger Books, and Manuſcripts, and abundance of obſervations on the ancient cuſtoms of the *Britains*, beſides copies of ancient charters to *Welſh* Monaſteries, and of ſome Diſſertations of the learned Mr. *Robert Vaughan* of *Hengwrt* for adjuſting and rectifying ſome miſtakes in the chronology of the Old Annals of *Wales*, and clearing up ſome parts of the *Britiſh* Hiſtory. I ſhould have been glad to have found out that Gentleman's Annals of *Wales*, which he had prepared for the preſs, and ſent to Archbiſhop *Uſher* for his peruſal; but it is not now in the Library of *Hengwrt*; and notwithſtanding Bp. *Nicholſon* ſeems to have thought it to be there, when he publiſhed his *Engliſh* Hiſtorical Library, I am perſuaded it has not been there theſe 50 years, ſince it is not mentioned in the Catalogue of that Library, which Mr. *Lhuyd* took ſo many years ago. The preſent Mr. *Vaughan* of *Hengwrt*, great Grandſon to the former, who has favoured me with other of his MSS. believes it to be in the Library of the late Sir *W. Williams* of *Lhanvorda*, where Bp. *Nicholſon* ſays, moſt of Mr. *Robert Vaughan*'s collections for the Hiſtory of *Wales* were lodged. A Catalogue is now taking of that Library of *Lhanvorda*, in order to favour me with the uſe of ſuch Materials as are in it, fit to clear up the ancient Hiſtory of *Britain*. It would be very acceptable news to the Learned world, and give me an infinite pleaſure, if thoſe Annals ſhould be found there in ſo ſeaſonable a juncture; however it be, as they are not to be expected any where elſe, and I can't propoſe to diſcover any further materials for that ancient part of our Hiſtory, than either are now, or will, in a week or two, after the aforeſaid Catalogue is taken, be in my power, I reſolve after

Chriſtmas next to begin the impreſſion of the firſt Volume of my Hiſtory, and to finiſh it before the end of the year. It will go down to the time when our Records begin, and as ſoon as I have publiſhed it entire, ſhall afterwards, for the better ſpreading of it into the hands of all the world, when every body may judge of it, diſtribute it, according to the preſent mode, in ſuch Numbers as the generality of people find it ſo much for their eaſe and convenience to purchaſe, that they take them in without being able to form a judgment or even gueſs what they are to have for their money.

By the time when our Records begin, I mean the Reign of *Richard* I. when the Acts and Grants of our Kings under the Seal of their Chancery or Exchequer began to be regularly enrolled, and kept in proper Repoſitories. The Survey of the Lands of the Kingdom in *Domeſday Book*, and the Sheriffs Accompts for one year of *Henry* I. and for all the reign (except the firſt year) of *Henry* II. among the Rolls in the Pipe Office, are indeed more ancient: but theſe are not properly Acts of our Kings, nor were the Acts of other Kings in *Europe* uſually enrolled and entered upon record before that time; for I am ſure they have not in *France*, nor could I ever hear that they have in any other *European* Country, any ſeries of Records more ancient. Before that time, the Chancellor kept by him copies of all Grants that paſſed the Great Seal, and when he died (for in *France* the Chancellor enjoys his poſt for life) a warrant was iſſued for his Executor or Heir to deliver thoſe copies to his ſucceſſor; but perhaps this was not conſtantly done, at leaſt there are very few of thoſe warrants preſerved. 'Tis very probable that the like method was obſerved in *England*, and perhaps generally throughout *Europe*.

An accident ſeems to have altered this method univerſally. *Philip Auguſt* (as *W. de Breton* a cotem-

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porary writer tells us, at the end of the fourth Book of his *Philippiade)* was ſurprized in an ambuſh at a place called *Bellefoge*, between *Blois* and *Freteval*, by *Richard* I. of *England*, who there took, beſides all that Prince's equipage, the Great Seal of *France*, and the copies of all Grants that had been paſſed under it during his reign, which it was uſual in thoſe days for Kings to take with them into the field. M. *Guerin* the then Chancellor took care by a Proclamation to oblige all perſons, to whom any of thoſe Grants had been made, to bring in their originals, that new copies thereof might be taken: and the misfortune having made them more ſenſible of the inconveniences of not knowing how to have recourſe on occaſion to authentic copies of former grants, an office was erected for the regular enrolment thereof, and a fixed place appointed for their ſafer cuſtody. This method ſeems to be introduced at the ſame time in *England*, where from the time of *Richard* I. all the Acts of our Kings in the courſe of their Government, that have paſſed under any of their Seals, have been conſtantly entered on record.

'Tis from theſe Records then, that we are to derive the ſureſt accounts of the conduct of our Princes, and the manner of their government; 'tis by theſe we ſee how the Prerogative was exerciſed in wiſe and good, or abuſed and ſtretched in weak and bad reigns; 'tis by going regularly through theſe, that we ſhall be enabled to clear up the rights and privileges of the Subject, to diſcover what encroachments have been made from time to time upon them in any inſtance, and by what ſteps or under what pretences this hath been done, and to trace up to the beginning the various changes that have happened in our Courts of Judicature, in our maxims of Law, in our methods or forms of Juſtice, and in received uſages and practiſes which ſerved once for Barriers to our Liberties. 'Tis from thence indeed that the chief

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and moſt important Materials for the ſecond and third Volumes of my Hiſtory (which will contain a relation of our *Engliſh* Affairs from the time of *Richard* I. to the Revolution) are to be taken.

'Tis the extraordinary expence of going through the immenſe quantity of theſe Records in the different Archives of this Kingdom, that induced ſo many Perſons of Quality and Diſtinction to contribute towards it in ſo generous a manner, and to agree in the abovementioned Subſcription. 'Tis this that has engaged the City of LONDON, the moſt conſiderable Body in the Kingdom and the moſt intereſted in its common good, to ſubſcribe fifty pounds a year for ſeven years towards thoſe charges; which has effectually removed all the apprehenſions I ever had in relation to the Succeſs of the Undertaking. And as I have ſome reaſon to think that their example will be ſoon followed by other Bodies as well as by ſeveral particular Gentlemen, I hope the Subſcribers will be pleaſed to hold a general meeting ſome time in the Month of *October* next, to put matters into form, to order what ſhall be needful for the tranſcribing of ſuch Records and Papers in our Archives as ſhall appear neceſſary for the Work, in which no time ought to be loſt, and to appoint a ſelect Committee, for regulating the meaſures proper to be taken, and for overſeeing every thing that is to be done in the execution of ſo important a Deſign.

THO. CARTE.

Grays-Inn, Aug. 9. 1744.

FINIS.